

APPLICANT(S): WILF, Itzhak et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/647,199
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-12 and 28-30 have been allowed.

Claims 13, 16, 18, 22, 31 and 32 have been rejected.

Claims 14, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23-27 have been objected to.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 14, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 33 have been amended.

Claims 13, 16, 18, 22, 31 and 32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 14, 15, 17, 19-21, 23-27 and 33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have done so, and accordingly, respectfully request allowance at this time of these claims and all claims dependent thereon.

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Remarks to the Oath (Declaration)

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the oath (declaration) because the full name of each inventor has not been set forth and/or that the signature of the first inventor is different from the name given.

Applicants are uncertain as to the basis for the objection. The declaration is fully executed with the full name of each inventor set forth and the signature of each inventor matches each name. It is possible that the Examiner's confusion resulted from the fact that the signature of some inventors is in Hebrew. In any event, in a telephone conversation, the Examiner indicated that Applicants should re-attach the declaration. Accordingly, Applicants attach hereto a copy of the original executed declaration.

Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Zhang et al. (US Patent No. 5,635,982). Insofar as claims 13, 16 and 18 have been cancelled, the rejection is moot.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 22 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by Toklu et al. (US Patent No. 6,549,643). Insofar as claims 22 and 31 have been cancelled, the rejection is moot.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Toklu et al (US Patent No. 6,549,643). Insofar as claim 32 has been cancelled, the rejection is moot.

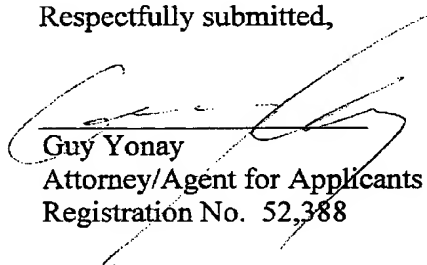
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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